



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Resolution of the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission

Whereas, the people of Montana have supported recovery of the grizzly bear since the species was listed as “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) though numerous actions that have protected or enhanced grizzly bear habitat and reduced grizzly bear mortality, and

Whereas, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), on behalf of the people of Montana has adopted management plans and conservation strategies for grizzly bears in the state and is the lead agency responsible for day-to-day conservation of the species in Montana, and

Whereas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which is responsible for administration of the ESA, has determined that grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem compose a distinct population segment (DPS) which is warranted for, and has been, removed from the list of threatened species, and

Whereas, the USFWS has committed to completing an analysis to determine what, if any, other grizzly bear DPSs exist in the contiguous 48 states and determining the appropriate status of those DPSs by the end of 2008 through a process that includes the affected state wildlife agencies, and

Whereas, the people of the United States, through Congress' adoption of the ESA, have imposed requirements for grizzly bear conservation that should rightfully be funded by the people of the United States, and

Whereas, it is essential that FWP be able to continue to monitor the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear population to determine the trend of the population following the population census completed in 2004 in order to gather the scientific data needed to delist this population;

Now therefore be it resolved by the FWP Commission that:

The Director shall communicate to the Director of the USFWS and other appropriate entities the FWP Commission's demand that the USFWS fulfill the commitment to complete the DPS analysis and status review for grizzly bears in the contiguous 48 states by December 31, 2008, and

Be it further resolved that:

The Director shall communicate to the Montana Congressional Delegation the FWP Commission's belief that significant and sustained federal funding to support state management of grizzly bears is both necessary and appropriate, in view of the national interest in this species.